

Patent
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REMARKS

Claims 14-27 are now pending in the application. Claims 14 and 21 are independent.

Claims 14-16 and 19-25 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 5,371,551 (Logan et al.) in view of US 2001/0022001 (Hiroi) and further in view of US 7,14,560 (Crinon), and Claims 17, 18, 26 and 27 were rejected as being unpatentable over Logan, Hiroi, Crinon and further in view of US 5,740,075 (Bigham et al.). In view of the following comments, each of these rejections is respectfully traversed, and reconsideration and withdrawal are accordingly requested.

Independent Claim 14 is directed to a method for processing a plurality of signals, including converting an analog signal to a desired format, converting a digital signal to the desired format, demultiplexing a third signal in the desired format, said third signal having an audio component and a video component, packetizing the first, second and third signals, and multiplexing the first, second and third signals into a single transport stream.

Independent Claim 21 is directed to an apparatus for processing a plurality of signals, including a first converter to convert an analog signal among the plurality of signals to a desired format, a second converter to convert a digital signal among the plurality of signals to the desired format, a demultiplexer to demultiplex a third signal in the desired format among the plurality of signals, the third signal having an audio component and a video component, a packetizer coupled to the demultiplexer, and the first and second converters, the packetizer to packetize the first, second and third signals; and a formatter coupled to the packetizer, the formatter to multiplex the first, second and third signals into a single transport stream.

The Action takes relies upon the position that Logan teaches "a method for processing a plurality of signals, including converting an analog signal to a desired format, converting a digital signal to the desired format"; Hiroi teaches "demultiplexing a third signal in the desired format, said third signal having an audio component and a video component"; and Crinon teaches "packetizing the first, second and third signals, and multiplexing the first, second and third signals into a single transport stream".

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As for the motivation to combine/modify the teachings of Crinon with those alleged to be found in Logan/Hiroi, the Action that it “would have been obvious to further modify Logan by realizing Logan with the means to packetize each of the multiple signals and multiplexing the multiple signals into a single transport stream, as taught by Crinon, since this provides the desirable advantage of ‘packetizing each of the multiple signals and multiplexing the multiple signals into a single transport stream.’”. Applicant respectfully submits that this statement provides *absolutely no reason* for the proposed motivation to combine/modify . should the rejection be maintained, clarification is requested.

In addition, as described at least at page 8, line 29 through page 9, line 18 of Applicant’s specification, as filed, in Applicant’s proposed method/apparatus, “once all the selected analog and digital signals are in the same digital format,...and are ready to be transmitted, packetizer 150 processes each such stream into packets for identification and later retrieval...[e]ach signal stream could include a header having identification information such as the original source and format...of the signal, audio content, and time...[o]nce the signals have been packetized, they are sent to formatter 155, which multiplexes the signals onto a single digital stream 165”.

Applicant submits that Crinon does not, in any manner, teach or suggest the step recited in Claim 14, of “packetizing the first, second and third signals” the “first signal” being an analog signal that has been converted to a desired format, the “second signal” being a digital signal converted to the desired digital format, and the “third signal”, having an audio component and a video component, and being demultiplexed in the desired format.

Rather in Crinon, only “data access units” generated in response to the ancillary data service elementary stream are packetized (see e.g., col. 7, lines 49-58; and col. 12, line 66 through col. 13, line 2 – Claim 1 of Crinon, reciting “a first packetizer that packetizes said information other than audio or video and sends packetized said information to said multiplexer in a third data stream separate from said first and second data streams”.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that each of independent Claims 14 and 21 is patentable over any combination of the teachings of Logan, Hiroi and Crinon. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 103(a) rejection are accordingly requested.

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Dependent Claims 15-20 and 22-27 are believed to be clearly patentable for all of the reasons indicated above with respect to Claims 14 and 27, one or the other from which they depend, and even further define over the cited references by reciting additional distinguishing limitations. For example, dependent Claim 15 recites the additional step of storing the single transport stream. The Examiner takes Official Notice that it is “well known to store a single transport stream on a storage means” and that it would have been obvious to modify Logan “by adding a storage means in order to store the single transport stream”. Applicant respectfully traverses this assertion, and submits that Logan does not teach or suggest “multiplexing first, second and third signals (as defined by independent Claims 14 and 21) into a single transport stream” and therefore it would not be obvious” to modify Logan “by adding a storage means to *store a single transport stream*” (as defined by Claims 14 and 21).

Similarly, with respect to dependent Claim 16, which recites the further step of “buffering the first, second and third signals prior to the packetizing” – the Action simply states that this “would have been an obvious engineering design consideration depending on the circuit at hand” – Applicant submits that the cited art fails to teach that such a modification would have “been an obvious engineering design choice” – and therefore, Applicant requests further support for such statement.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims are patentable over the art of record, and are now in condition for allowance.

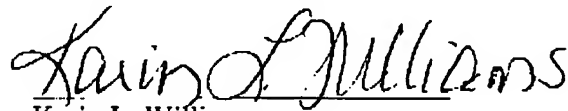
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Should the Examiner be of the view that an interview would expedite consideration of this Response or of the application at large, request is made that the Examiner telephone the Applicants' attorney at (908) 518-7700 in order that any outstanding issues be resolved.

Respectfully submitted,



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